

Manager’s Message

By Glynn Lunney
Vice President and Program Manager, United Space Alliance



Lunney

The International Space Station program represents a tremendous challenge to the ingenuity and capabilities of the entire NASA/contractor team including all of our international partners. The scale and technical complexity of the assembly far exceeds any previous orbital operation in space history.

Today, in the spring of 1997, the Phase I portion of the ISS program continues to develop the experience, cooperation and hardware foundations for the upcoming assembly of the ISS. We are now flying the fifth of a planned series of up to nine missions to the Mir Space Station. NASA flight crews-Thagard, Lucid, Blaha, Linenger-will soon be followed by other crew members who will live and work aboard the Mir. These Mir missions will continue to provide extensive experience and understanding while being conducted in a space vehicle which is now more than 11 years old. Past and new problems will be overcome as the crews maintain Mir and perform many on-board experiments.

Although this seems new to us, this process is very analogous to the program sequence which made Apollo the success it was. In between the relatively simple Mercury missions (four manned orbital flights) and the Apollo series, NASA conducted the Gemini program featuring 10 manned orbital missions. Gemini was the precursor to Apollo and provided the experience base and the confidence so necessary for Apollo. During Gemini, the mission planning team joined with the flight crews and the flight control teams to master many flight disciplines, untried-as-yet but mandatory for Apollo. These new challenges

included multi-person crews and the first use of a digital computer and crew interface to guide the spacecraft during ascent, rendezvous, deorbit and re-entry. Many variations of rendezvous were invented and tested. We learned the lessons of EVA—how to train for, how to equip the spacecraft with positioning assists for the crew, how to control the crew workload and when to back out of untenable situations.

Gemini also docked with the Agena stage and used the Agena propulsion to boost the docked spacecraft to a higher altitude. One Gemini mission tested crew endurance in a small compartment on a two-week mission. These flights were successfully conducted while the relative newness of the manned space hardware still required significant attention and work-arounds to off-nominal vehicle conditions.

The contribution of Gemini is perhaps best measured by the fact that NASA went from four simple orbital flights in Mercury to Apollo where the second manned mission orbited the Moon and the fifth manned mission, Apollo 11, landed on the Moon. Gemini was the experience and confidence base which enabled and propelled Apollo to that rapid pace.

In similar fashion, the Phase I experience with the Mir Space Station will be an invaluable foundation for the assembly and operation of the ISS, providing NASA with the fundamental tools needed to build a global space outpost capable of supporting continuous science and research well into the first portion of the 21st century.



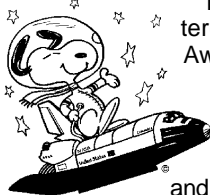
JSC Photo S97-04910 by Benny Benavides

During a recent Space Center Houston tour, the Rolls Royce Owners Club made a stop at JSC’s Rocket Park in their vintage English touring cars. Astronaut Joe Edwards talked with members about the space program during lunch. The Rolls Royce club has 6,000 members world wide and they consider themselves care takers of the vintage cars and are dedicated to the preservation of Rolls Royce and Bentley models. Twenty-four cars made the trip to Texas that began in Austin for the annual Spring tour. About half of the cars were built before World War II including two Silver Ghosts, one of the original Rolls Royce models.

Astronauts award Snoopys

JSC astronauts presented Silver Snoopy awards to 11 employees during the first quarter of 1997.

The most recent civil service employees to join the ranks of Snoopy owners are John Albright and William Hoffman of Engineering; Jamie Forero of Flight Crew Operations; Randy Galloway and Mark Pestana of the Space Station Program Office; and Duane Pierson of the Space and Life Sciences Directorate.



Contractor employees honored with Snoopys are Yu-Ming Chen and Sheila Whelan of Krug Life Sciences; Alla Djiguiroi of Techtrans; Arden Larouere of Johnson Controls; and William Schaefer of Barrios.

The Silver Snoopy award, administered through the Space Flight Awareness Program, is the astronauts’ personal award for outstanding contributions toward mission success and flight safety. It is presented to less than one percent of the NASA and contractor work force.

People on the Move

Human Resources reports the following personnel changes as of March 16:

New Hires

John Lawrence transfers from Headquarters to the Office of Public Affairs.

Temporaries

Cheryl Iman joins the Safety Reliability and Quality Assurance Office.

Janet O’Dell joins the Space Station Program Office.

Reassignments

Joseph Chang and Martin Demaret move from Space Operations to the Business Management Directorate.

Grace Martinez moves from the Business Management Directorate to the Space Station Program Office.

Naveed Quraishi moves from Engineering to the Space Station Program Office.

Joseph Hamilton moves from Mission Operations to Space and Life Sciences.

Jose Olivarez moves from Engineering to Space and Life Sciences.



JSC Photo S97-04857 by Steve Candler

SECRETARIAL TOP HONORS—From left, JSC Director George Abbey presents Ester McFarland of the Space and Life Sciences Business Management Office with the Marilyn J. Bocking Award for secretarial excellence. McFarland was honored for her exceptional skills because of her work performance, her positive attitude and her grace and diplomacy in dealing with others. She is professional, pleasant, helpful and competent. Her commitment and dedication to working with the Space and Life Science secretaries and coordinating more than 30 employees located in several buildings across JSC earned her JSC’s top secretarial award.

Dates & Data

April 26

PSI meets: The Professional Secretaries International will host a recognition banquet at 6 p.m. April 26 at the Red Lion Hotel, in the Galleria. Greg Weido, division director for Robert Half International is the featured speaker. For more information call Elaine Kemp at x30556.

April 30

Spaceland Toastmasters meet: The Spaceland Toastmasters will meet at 7 a.m. April 30 at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church. For more information call Jeannette Kirinich at x45752.

Spaceteam Toastmasters meet: The Spaceteam Toastmasters will meet at 11:30 a.m. April 30 at United Space Alliance, 600 Gemini. For more information call Pat Blackwell at 282-4302 or Ben Black at 282-4166.

Astronomy seminar: The JSC Astronomy Seminar will be held at noon April 30 in Bldg. 31 Rm. 129. An open discussion meeting is planned. For more information call Al Jackson at x35037.

May 1

Warning system test: The site-wide Employee Warning System will undergo its monthly audio test at noon May 1. For more information call Bob Gaffney at x34249.

May 6

Financial seminar: The Texas Gulf Coast Council of the National Management Association will host “Financial Strategies for Successful Retirement,” seminar from 6-9 p.m. May 6 and 13. Cost is \$60 per couple for NMA members and \$85 for non members. For details call Richard Hergert at 280-0444.

ASQC meets: The Bay Area Section of the American Society for Quality Control will meet at 6 p.m. May 6 at the Ramada King’s Inn on NASA Road 1. Paul Newbold, senior certification systems specialist at Phillips Chemical Company, will discuss “Implementing a Successful Supplier Rating System.” Dinner costs \$9 and reservations not required. For more information

call Ray Swindle at 281-335-6948.

May 7

Spaceland Toastmasters meet: The Spaceland Toastmasters will meet at 7 a.m. May 7 at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church. For more information call Jeannette Kirinich at x45752.

Spaceteam Toastmasters meet: The Spaceteam Toastmasters will meet at 11:30 a.m. May 7 at United Space Alliance, 600 Gemini. For more information call Pat Blackwell at 282-4302 or Ben Black at 282-4166.

Total health program: The Total Health Program will present a Sports Injuries Presentation from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. May 7 in Bldg. 4 South Rm. 6600. Dr. Ivey, professor of Orthopedic Surgery and chief of the Division of Sports Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, is the featured speaker. For details contact Greta Ayers at 483-0302.

Astronomy seminar: The JSC Astronomy Seminar will be held at noon May 7 in Bldg. 31 Rm. 129. An open discussion meeting is planned. For more information call Al Jackson at x35037.

May 8

SSQ meets: The Houston Clear Lake Chapter of the Society for Software Quality will meet at 6 p.m. May 8 at the Ramada King’s Inn on NASA Road 1. Steve Engle of DHT Corporation will discuss “Security on the Internet.” Dinner costs \$10 for members and \$12 for non members. For reservations and more information call Renne Peterson at 281-335-2034.

Sigma Xi meets: The Clear Lake Chapter of the Sigma Xi Society will meet at 6 p.m. May 8 in the Forest Room at University of Houston, Clear Lake. Dr. Douglas Blanchard will discuss the “Antimagnetic Particle Spectrometer.” For more information call Mike Duke at 244-2036.

Airplane club meets: The Radio Control Airplane Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. May 8 at Clear Lake Park Community Bldg. For more information call Bill Langdoc at x35970.

May 9

Astronomers meet: The JSC Astronomical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. May 9 at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, 3600 Bay Area Blvd. For more information call Chuck Shaw at x35416.

May 10

Sailboat rides: The Clear Lake Sailing Club will offer free sailboat rides May 10 at Clear Lake Park. For reservations call Richard Hoover at 996-7716.

May 13

NPMA meets: The National Property Management Association will meet at 5 p.m. May 13 at Robinette and Doyle Caterers, 216 Kirby in Seabrook. Social and dinner costs \$14. For more information call Sina Hawsey at x36582.

Aero club meets: The Bay Area Aero Club will meet at 7 p.m. May 13 at the Houston Gulf Airport clubhouse at 2750 FM 1266 in League City. For more information call Larry Hendrickson at x32050.

May 14

MAES meets: The Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists will meet at 11:30 a.m. May 14 in the Bldg. 3 cafeteria. For more information call G.D. Valle at x38835.

PSI meets: The Clear Lake/ NASA Chapter of Professional Secretaries International will meet at 5:30 p.m. May 14 at the Holiday Inn, NASA Road 1. Dinner costs \$15. For more information call Elaine Kemp at x30556.

May 17

NTA meets: The National Technical Association will meet at 10 a.m. May 17 at Texas Southern University School of Technology, Rm. 316. For more information call Pam Denkins at x35272.

May 21

Scuba club meets: The Lunar-fins will meet at 7:30 p.m. May 21 at the Redfish Restaurant under the Kemah/Seabrook bridge, Seabrook side. For more information call Fred Toole at x33201.